



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All in the Spirit of Christ

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

**1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

Phone: 802-878-5745 **E-mail:** welcome@fccej.org **Website:** www.fccej.org



**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026**

Our worship opportunities during the year offer two services: one traditional with our outstanding organist and Sanctuary Choir at 8:30 a.m. and one less traditional with our talented Finally @ First Band and our Faith Formation Program for our children at 10:15am. We meet together with communion on the first Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us as a precious child of God. Each week our service is streamed for all to see live or whenever they would like; check it out on our web page at fccej.org. From June 7th through September 6th, we have one service at 9am with our organist and a group of talented volunteers offering their musical abilities to God and our congregation.

*A Welcoming Community Accepting and Serving All
In the Spirit of Christ*

Order of Worship

Prelude

An Extravagant Welcome and Announcements..... Mary McHugh
*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome in this place.*

Deacon's Greeting.....Emily Guziak, Deacon
Our Deacon will welcome everyone to our community of faith; ask if anyone has special joys to share, and encourage anyone to fill out the welcome sheet found in the pew to lift up any needs and place it in the offering plate.

Introit *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Isaac Watts
American Folk Melody arr. Dennis Allen

Call to Worship: Psalm 65:1-4, 9-13.....Emily Guziak, Deacon

Lectern Side: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed.

Pulpit Side: O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

Lectern Side: When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

Pulpit Side: Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the good ness of your house, your holy temple.

Lectern Side: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

Pulpit Side: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

Lectern Side: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

Pulpit Side: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy.

Everyone: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

***Opening Hymn**

Come to Tend God's Garden

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Deacon's Prayer of Invocation and Unison Lord's Prayer..... Emily Guziak
Loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. **And do not let us fall into temptation**, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

The Children's Message..... Mary McHugh

The Congregation Sings as the Children Come Forward

Jesus loves the little children, all God's children of the world.
Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through,
Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.

The Congregation Sings as the Children Return to Their Families
God has made us all a rainbow. Colors dancing 'round and 'round.
In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,
God has made us all a rainbow dancing 'round.

Anthem

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Christian Hymn

Lyrics adap. Roma Ryan/arr. Enya

Pastoral Prayer Mary McHugh & Rev. Ron Faux

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Prayer Response

"Siyahamba"

South African folk song

(We Are Walking in the Light of God)

***Congregational Hymn of Choice**

For the middle hymn, the worship leader will ask the congregation for suggestions to what to sing. This affords the congregation the opportunity to choose their favorite hymn for all of us to sing.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

If you desire prayers for yourself or a loved one; or if you wish for a call from a pastor, you may use the Friendship Pads, email welcome@fccej.org, or call (802) 878-5745. Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a month.

Family & Friends of
Sally Lembake
Family & Friends of
Lani Goram
Michael Lafoy
Audrey Sawyer
Allan and Barbara Reith
Chris Canosa
Family & Friends of
Russ Kinaman
Meg Audette and Family
Fletch Coolidge
Family & Friends of
Annette Whitemar

Laura Cunningham-Firkey
and Family
Myrna Lindholm
Myrna Dooney
Mike and Carole Allen
Shashaunah
Michael Hahner
Bill Bickford Jr.
Joe Shields
Elizabeth Stone
Patty Geiger
Thomas Cencer
Jane Piper

Josh Winslow
Tatyana Szymanski,
Bobby Evans, and all troops
currently deployed
Carol Daigle
Patty Giroux
Everyone experiencing
uncertainty and fear
in their communities
All those affected by the
violence around the world
Everyone that may be
privately suffering

*The flowers on the altar today are given by Cindy Longwell & Suzanne Hawley
In memory of Norma Edwards.*

Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar are a wonderful way to remember loved ones or celebrate a special day. We include a note in the bulletin about who donated the flowers and who/what they are honoring. Scan the QR code or use this link to sign up: www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0545A8AB2FAAF58-53196874-altar#/



Three Summer Evenings

On July 22 plan to join us between 5:30 and 6 for a quick bite to eat, then our programming will start at 6:15. Each evening we will be using some (if not all) of our parking lot for the event, so if you are able, please park offsite. Our plan is to conclude by 7:30, with clean-up being done by 8.

We will explore Moses' journey in the wilderness, and on August 19 we will have a street dance, with music provided by Supersounds! Look for save the date cards in the bulletin.

Summer Lawn Sale

The annual Craft Fest Summer Lawn Sale is Saturday, August 15th from 9am to 1pm. We'll be accepting kitchen items, books, children's toys, holiday items, puzzles, baskets, bath items, paintings, frames, jewelry, and furniture. Any furniture which hasn't sold can be picked up at 1pm. If not picked up, then the item will be left for free. Please note no early shoppers.

Items can be dropped off at the church starting July 6th in the West Wing. Signs will be up indicating where to leave your items. Items can also be dropped off that Saturday starting at 7am on the church lawn. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Friday, August 14th from 4:30—5:30pm—setting up Tents
- Saturday, August 15th from 6:30—7am—setting up tables
- Saturday, August 15th from 1—2pm taking down tents and tables

All proceeds from the sale benefit the church budget. The sale will also have a bake sale hosted by the Missions Committee, and a food drive to supplement the Heavenly Food Pantry. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please contact the church office.

Soda Drive for Josh's House

The Missions Committee continues to support Josh Pallotta House in Winooski. Josh's House VT is for Veterans & current military personnel. It's a designed recreation/wellness space offering meeting and study areas, a large communal kitchen, video games, and a state-of-the-art gym.

Many of the veterans being served at the Pallotta house are recovering substance abusers. These veterans rely on sugar items to get them through their addiction. Missions is has agreed to sponsor a soda drive during July, August & September. You can drop the soda anytime while the church is open. The drop-off place will be in Fellowship Hall. Signs will be posted to provide the exact location. **Remember—sugar soda only, no diet.** Thank you for your support!

Stay Connected!

Our weekly EConnection contains timely information about the FCCEJ faith community including children/youth happenings, special events, links to online bulletins and worship services, and our current calendar. Our monthly newsletter "SPIRIT@FIRST" is available by "snail mail" and email, as well as on our website. Please share your contact information via the Friendship Pad and indicate which communications you are interested in receiving.

Weekly Calendar: July 12—July 19

Please contact the church office with any changes or corrections

<p><u>Sunday, July 12</u> 9am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming 10:30am: Christian Formation—Marvin Lounge Music Committee—2nd Floor Program Room <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>	<p><u>Monday, July 13</u> 9am: Food Pantry Organizing—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, 2nd Floor Storage Room <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 1pm: Food Pantry Set Up—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen 5pm: Thrift Shop Advisory Board—Marvin Lounge 5:30pm: Food Pantry Distribution—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Sanctuary</p>
<p><u>Tuesday, July 14</u> 8:30: Sermon Talkback—Marvin Lounge/Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903982036] 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> 3:30pm: Food Pantry Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>6:30pm: BSA Three Rivers District Roundtable—Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor Program Room</i></p>	<p><u>Wednesday, July 15</u> 8am: Food Bank Delivery—Fellowship Hall <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> Missions Committee—Marvin Lounge <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>3pm: Highland Dance Practice—Gym</i></p>
<p><u>Thursday, July 16</u> <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge</i> 3-6pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>6:30pm: Music Lesson—Sanctuary</i></p>	<p><u>Friday, July 17</u> 8am: Coffee Clatter—Martone’s Deli Music Lesson—Sanctuary <i>10am: Bone Builders—Fellowship Hall</i> Music Lesson—Sanctuary <i>11:30am: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i> <i>7pm: Burlington Amateur Radio Club—Marvin Lounge</i></p>
<p><u>Saturday, July 18</u> <i>8am: Give It A Go Support Group—Marvin Lounge</i> <i>The Vine Nepali Congregation—Sanctuary, West Wing</i> <i>8:30am: Weight Loss Support —Fellowship Hall</i> 10am-1pm: Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop <i>11:30am: Mitch Allen Celebration of Life—Fellowship Hall, Kitchen</i> <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Marvin Lounge</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, July 19</u> 9am: Worship—Sanctuary & Streaming <i>1pm: Brown Bag Fellowship—Fellowship Hall</i></p>

Events in italics = Local Community Groups

FCCEJ MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Commissioned Assistant Minister: Bob Driver [pastorbob@fccej.org]

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Elizabeth O'Beirne [childrensministry@fccej.org]

Music Director: Bethany Blake [bblake@fccej.org]

Church Administrator: Jen Kelly [welcome@fccej.org]

Social Media Marketing Coordinator: Andrea Sharp [andrea.sharp@gmail.com]

Music

Chair of Music: Steph Field

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley

Men At First Director: Bill Bickford Jr.

Officers

President: Terry Stein

Vice President: Kathryn Brennan

Financial Secretary: Ann Gray [finances@fccej.org]

Assistant Financial Secretary: Linda Bogardus

Treasurer: Darryl Koch [treasurer@fccej.org]

Assistant Treasurer: Matt McGeary

Clerk: Alison Wermer

Assistant Clerk: Brenda Dawson

Historian: Ann Gray

Internal Auditors: Dan Petherbridge, Alan Kinney

Committee Chairs

Christian Formation: Terri Livak

Hospitality: Sue Conti

Communications:

Francis Gravel, Beth Warren—Co-Chairs

Human Resources: Terry Stein

Missions: Ann Marie Sullivan

Deacons:

Judy McCullen, Bob Driver—Co-Chairs

Nominating: Lauren Starkey

Stewardship: Beth Volker

Finance & Pastoral Relations:

Kathryn Brennan

Trustees: Rob Gibson

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sandy Tallman

Heavenly Food Pantry: Betsy Weischedel, Lisa Clark